SIKKIM

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
HOME DEPARTMENT
GANGTOK

No. 87/Home/2025 **Dated: 23/09/2025**

NOTIFICATION

Whereas the Government of Sikkim has taken initiative to promote sustainable livelihood in border areas.

It is hereby notified that Doka-La and Cho-La shall be open for tourism purpose, for domestic tourists only (having valid Indian Voter IDs) w.e.f 1st October, 2025.

To ensure proper management and monitoring of tourists in these strategic areas, the following Guidelines shall be strictly adhered to:-

1. **Access and Entry :**
   (i) Tourists must obtain a valid permit issued by Tourism and CA Department through registered tour operators/ travel agencies.
   (ii) The permits shall be issued only upon submission of one night home stay booking confirmation, from the designated areas, along the Silk route (Kupup/Gnathang/Zuluk/ Padamchen).
   (iii) The permit fees will be Rs. 1120/- per person, including Wild Life Sanctuary entry and Tsomgo Pokhari Sangrakshan Samiti (TPSS) fee, which shall be collected by Tourism and CA Department and shared with concerned agencies.
   (iv) Permits issued by Home Department for official purposes shall be exempted from permit fee.
   (v) No Parking Fee collection is allowed at parking spots along the route, without prior approval of Government.

2. **Restriction on vehicles:**
   (i) A maximum of 25 tourist vehicles per day and 25 bikers per day shall be permitted for Cho-La and Doka-La.
   (ii) Vehicles with engine capacity of 1400 cc and above only, shall be permitted for this route in view of the challenging terrain.
   (iii) All vehicles must be owned and operated through registered travel operators. No private vehicle shall be allowed to ply for tourists.

(iv) The prescribed fare for hiring category Z vehicles shall be Rs. 12,000/- for two days package and for category J vehicles shall be Rs. 11,000/- for two days package.

3. Security Measures :

(i) The Checkpost shall ensure that adequate man-power is deployed and security arrangements are in place. The 17 Mtn. Div Army, Sikkim Police and officials of Tourism and CA Department shall check the vehicles plying to Doka-La at Kupup Checkpost and for vehicles plying to Cho-La at Cho-La diversion.

(ii) The Checkposts shall ensure that the vehicles should not exceed the prescribed limit.

(iii) A Police Escort shall also accompany the tourists from Kupup diversion to Doka-La and from Cho-La diversion to Cho-La.

4. Staggering of timings :

(i) Due to the unpredictable weather conditions in the area, all tourists shall be required to start their visit early in the day and return early.

(ii) Tourists shall depart in two groups from Tsomgo (Cho-La Diversion point) to Cho-La at 10:00 am and another at 11:00 am.

(iii) Similarly, the next day the tourist shall depart from Kupup to Doka-La at 9:00 am and another at 10:00 am. This is also being done to ensure parking facilities are available and monitoring and coordination by Checkposts.

5. Environmental protection and preservation of sites :

(i) To promote responsible tourism, the Tourism and CA Department through the travel operators shall ensure that no littering or environmental damage occurs in these pristine areas.

(ii) All tourist vehicles shall mandatorily have a garbage bag in the vehicle, which should be properly emptied at garbage collection sites at Tsomgo and Kupup.

6. The permit issued by Tourism and CA Department for the 25 vehicles is an express permit and will not require checking except at 3rd Mile, Cho-La, Nathula and Dok-La diversions.

The Checkpost and the Tourism and CA Department shall submit a monthly report to Home Department on the number of tourists and vehicles plying to Cho-La and Doka-La to ensure security and monitoring.

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